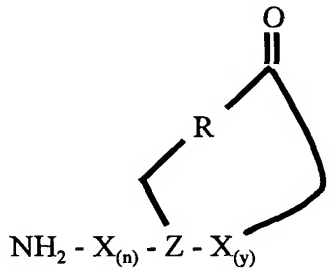
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A cyclic peptide comprising the structure:



A6 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of an amino acid, an amino acid analog, a peptidomimetic and a non-amide isostere, Z is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic amino acid and a biosynthetic amino acid, R is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and carbon, n is 0 to 10 and y is 1 to 10,

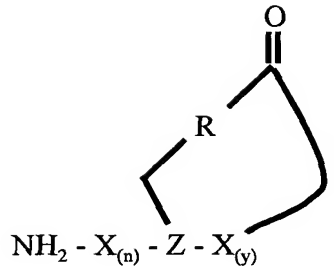
wherein the cyclic peptide is capable of inhibiting the *agr* response.

2. Amended) A cyclic peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of NH_2-$X_{(n)}$-Z-$X_{(y)}$-COOH and a cyclic bond between the Z residue and COOH other than a thioester bond, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of an amino acid, an amino acid analog, a peptidomimetic and a non-amide isostere, Z is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic amino acid and a biosynthetic amino acid, n is 0 to 10 and y is 1 to 10,

wherein the cyclic peptide is capable of inhibiting the *agr* response.

17. (Amended) A method for treating *S. aureus* infection in a subject comprising

A7 administering to the subject an amount of a cyclic peptide effective to treat the infection, said cyclic peptide comprising the structure:



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of an amino acid, an amino acid analog, a peptidomimetic and a non-amide isostere, Z is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic amino acid and a biosynthetic amino acid, R is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and carbon, n is 0 to 10 and y is 1 to 10.

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18. (Amended) A method for treating *S. aureus* infection in a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a cyclic peptide effective to treat the infection, said cyclic peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of NH_2-$X_{(n)}$-Z-$X_{(y)}$-COOH and a cyclic bond between the Z residue and COOH other than a thioester bond, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of an amino acid, an amino acid analog, a peptidomimetic and a non-amide isostere, Z is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic amino acid and a biosynthetic amino acid, n is 0 to 10 and y is 1 to 10.

Please cancel Claims 3-16 and 19-24 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

– 25. The method of claim 17, wherein Z has a side chain comprising oxygen, nitrogen or carbon.

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26. The method of claim 18, wherein Z has a side chain comprising oxygen, nitrogen or carbon.

27. The method of claim 18, wherein the cyclic bond is a lactam or lactone bond.

28. The method of claim 17, wherein the cyclic peptide is capable of inhibiting the *agr* response.

29. The method of claim 18, wherein the cyclic peptide is capable of inhibiting the *agr* response.

30. The method of claim 17, wherein y is 4.

31. The method of claim 18, wherein y is 4.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the peptide is selected from the group of peptides having an amino acid sequence that comprises G-V-N-A-X-S-S-L-F (Seq.ID No.:1), G-A-N-A-X-S-S-L-F (Seq.ID No.:2), A-V-A-N-X-S-S-L-F (Seq.ID No.:4), G-V-N-A-X-A-S-L-F (Seq.ID No.:5), G-V-N-A-X-S-A-L-F (Seq.ID No.:6), G-V-N-A-X-S-S-A-F (Seq.ID No.:7) and X-S-S-L-F (Seq.ID No. 8).

33. The method of claim 31, wherein the peptide is selected from the group of peptides having an amino acid sequence that comprises G-V-N-A-X-S-S-L-F (Seq.ID No.:1), G-A-N-A-X-S-S-L-F (Seq.ID No.:2), G-V-A-A-X-S-S-L-F (Seq.ID No.:3), A-V-A-N-X-S-S-L-F (Seq.ID No.:4), G-V-N-A-X-A-S-L-F (Seq.ID No.:5), G-V-N-A-X-S-A-L-F (Seq.ID No.:6), G-V-N-A-X-S-S-A-F (Seq.ID No.:7) and X-S-S-L-F (Seq.ID No. 8).

34. The method of claim 17, wherein a composition is administered and said composition comprises said peptide and a carrier.

35. The method of claim 18, wherein a composition is administered and said composition comprises said peptide and a carrier.